



A NARRATIVE
OF
A LIGHT COMPANY SOLDIER'S SERVICE,
IN
THE 41ST REGIMENT OF FOOT,
DURING THE LATE
AMERICAN WAR;
TOGETHER
WITH SOME ADVENTURES
AMONGST
THE INDIAN TRIBES,
FROM 1812 TO 1814.

BRADFORD:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JCHN BUBB;
AND SOLD BY THE AUTHOR.

Price One Shilling.

1840.

108957

The following little work is introduced by the author to a generous Public, in the hope that it may meet its countenance and patronage. It is a plain and simple narrative of his personal adventures and experience in our last war with America.



A NARRATIVE, &c. &c.

I was born at Woolley, near Bradford, in the county of Wilts, on the 16th day of September, in the year 1789, the day on which His Majesty King George the Third, came from Longleat to Trowbridge. I entered the Militia service in the year 1807. My mother on hearing I was enlisted (and having two sons before in the army) was so affected, that on the evening of the same day she fell in a fit and never spoke after, and I was obliged to march off the next morning; she expired on the third day after. Our route was for Newcastle upon Tyne, where I joined the Wiltshire regiment of Militia.

After I had learned my discipline, the regiment marched to Norman Cross, to do duty over French prisoners. Those of us who were not perfect in our duty, were detached to Petersburgh for improvement; myself with others were soon returned to the prison, being considered fit for duty. Our next route was

for Ipswich, (Suffolk); I then got a furlough to go home to see my friends. After returning to my regiment, an order was given for volunteering to the line; a considerable number volunteered to the 41st foot, and having a brother in that corps, I was one of the number: the volunteers soon marched for Portsmouth, and from thence to the Isle of Wight, in May 1809, embarked on board the Robert transport, and sailed for Quebec; we had a good passage. and arrived in about nine or ten weeks. While at anchor off Quebec, we received orders to take boats, and go up the river St. Lawrence; a few miles up the river, an aidecamp from the beach communicated counter orders, and we returned to Quebec, and occupied Jesuit's barracks. After having been there some time, a sergeant came into the barrack room, and asked if there was a lad who wished to be a groom to the quartermaster-general, I replied that I would go. Having dressed myself, the sergeant took me to the quartermaster-general, who asked me if I understood looking after horses, I said I did not, but that I was willing to learn, he replied, "You are the lad, I do not want one that knows too much," he appeared to take an interest in me, as he used to come himself and instruct me in cleaning the horses, &c., and ordered me to Lower

Town, to be measured for two suits of clothes ; in the winter he went to Montreal, and took me with him, and understanding that I had a brother in the 41st, asked me if I should like to see him, as the regiment was expected at Montreal ; he gave me leave to wait his arrival, after which I was to return to Quebec without him, as he was going into the States for a short time. While in company with my brother, Colonel Procter enquired who I was, I being dressed in coloured clothes, he was told that I was one of the volunteers, come out to join the regiment ; he ordered me into the barracks, where I received a suit of regiments, and was ordered into the ranks. I felt very much hurt, being taken away from my master without his knowledge. When he returned from the States to Montreal, and finding that I was not gone to Quebec, he sent to the barracks for me. I waited on him, and he asked me why I had not returned to Quebec ; I told him the reason, and asked him if he would wait on the colonel to get me leave to go with him, he said he should not humble to the colonel, but the clothes and the money he gave me I was to keep. I was then put into the same company my brother was in, (Captain Crowder's). I had not joined the company long, when my captain asked me if I was a scholar, and when I

told him I was not, he wished me to go to school, and said that he would make a non-commissioned officer of me ; which offer I refused, being young and foolish. Some time after this I was picked out for the light infantry company, (Captain Muir's). Soon after, the flank companies received orders to go to Quebec, to form light and heavy brigades, where I had the pleasure of seeing my old master, who treated me very kindly ; the brigade was broken up and we returned to Montreal. After lying there about a year and a half, we received a route for Fort George ; while here, several incidents happened in which my life was wonderfully preserved. One day, while standing on the quay, a sergeant who was ordered to York, on command, when going on board, his sword fell from its scabbard into the water. I heard him lamenting about it very much, and being a good swimmer I undressed, went into the water and dived for it, found it and brought it up ; the sergeant was very thankful, and offered me any thing I would accept ; but this act produced a fit of illness, (I being under water a considerable time) it affected my head. Soon after my recovery, as we were on a fishing party, I was employed in holding one end of the net, and with the violence of the wind and the waves I was pulled into the water, from the ice on which I was

school, and said
officer of me ;
polish. Some
light infantry
the flank com-
, to form light
sure of seeing
dly ; the bri-
to Montreal.
f, we received
veral incidents
lly preserved.
sergeant who
hen going on
into the water.
uch, and being
the water and
; the sergeant
thing I would
ness, (I being
ted my head.
fishing party,
f the net, and
waves I was
which I was

standing, and came in contact with the boat, and was almost squeezed to death between the boat and the ice. I was pulled into the boat and carried to the barracks, very much bruised, but no bones were broken. Soon after this, we heard that war was proclaimed between England and America.

One Sunday morning, being on sentry on the bank of the river St. Lawrence, I saw a boat drifting down the river, without any person in it ; a party of men was warned to go and bring in the boat. While the men were out, the Americans fired on them, which was the first shot I saw fired in anger. On their return, General Brock being informed of the transaction, ordered them out immediately, to bring in the boat, and said if they fired again he would open the batteries upon them ; they went out and brought her in without any further firing. The general immediately gave orders for a large bank to be thrown up, in front of the American fort, to preserve the town ; every man went to work immediately, the general staying with us all night. As the flank companies did the duty at the government house, I was amongst them. Our general was very much beloved ; he used to come out and talk very familiarly with us. After fortifying the town, we understood that the Americans had crossed

the river from Detroit to Sandwich ; to which place we were ordered to march. We proceeded to Oxford, and collected as many volunteers as we could, and from thence to Long Point, where General Brock met us with reinforcements. We then went on to Maldon. The general there gave orders for every man that was fit for duty to march for Sandwich, and we left Malden under his command. The Americans had erected works, at Sandwich, but hearing that we were advancing, they burnt and destroyed them, and returned over to Detroit. When we arrived at Sandwich, the general gave orders to build batteries, opposite the town and fort of Detroit. When the works were completed, which was on Sunday morning, August 16th, 1812, orders were given for the batteries to be opened, and about five hundred of the troops, besides a few Indians and volunteers, were ordered to cross the river, in boats, below Sandwich : our general was with us. The Americans opened their batteries upon us ; we made our landing good, and marched towards the town. When we entered the field in front of the American fort, we were marched rank and file, and halted ; the enemy at the same time marched out of the fort, and formed in three columns ; after a short time they returned into the fort again. Our general gave orders

which place we
to Oxford, and
ld, and from
ck met us with
Maldon. The
that was fit
e left Malden
had erected
ere advancing,
urned over to
, the general
the town and
re completed,
16th, 1812,
opened, and
a few Indians
the rivery, in
was with us.
upon us ; we
wards the town.
the American
d halted ; the
the fort, and
ort time they
al gave orders

that all the spare jackets were to be given to the volunteers, and extended the lines as far as possible. After awhile an officer came from the fort with a flag of truce : General Brock came up to meet the flag of truce, with his attendants to the advance. I was on the advance with the general at the time, and from what we could hear, the officer wanted three days' cessation ; to which our general replied, that if they did not yield in three hours, he would blow up every one of them. The officer went back with this message, and returned very soon, with authority to surrender the fort ; the enemy, shortly after, marched out of the fort, and laid down their arms, and we marched in. There was a party warned (of which I was one) to go through the fort, to see if any of the enemy were remaining in it ; when I saw three American officers lying dead. One of the men told me that one of these officers said, before night he would wash his hands in British blood. We found two or three of the enemy remaining in the officers' apartments, they were about to destroy the colours of the 4th American regiment, but we took the colours from them ; entering another room, I saw several men, and ordered them out. Whilst walking along, I slipped, and nearly fell, one of the men said, " My dear man, that is the brains

of a man killed with one of your shots." After we had got possession, and the prisoners were sent off, our general who was about to leave us, assembled the troops, and thanked them for their gallantry, saying that it would be a feather in our caps as long as we lived. Orders were then given to tire off the American's arms. After discharging many of them, we were obliged to leave off, and draw the charges, as they were so heavily loaded, some with a musket ball and nine buck shots. But notwithstanding I thus shared in the dangers of this capture, I have received no share of the prize money; two different payments have been made for Detroit, amounting to several pounds each man, but I have received neither: owing to the neglect of the clerk, or some other cause, my name was omitted from being inserted in the prize list.

After this, news was received that the Indians had surrounded an American fort. About 200 of us, under the command of Captain Muir, were ordered to march towards the Mawme Rapids. We encamped for several days; we then received orders to march to Fort Defiance. Part of us marched through the woods, the others, with the ammunition and provisions, went up the Mawme river in boats. We halted one night, the next morning crossed the river;

After we had got off, our general
l the troops, and
that it would be
lived. Orders
n's arms. After
bliged to leave
were so heavily
nine buck shots.
n the dangers of
are of the prize
been made for
each man, but I
e neglect of the
was omitted from

the Indians had
200 of us, under
ere ordered to

We encamped
orders to march
marched through
munition and pro-
r in boats. We
crossed the river;

and marched on through the woods, until we came to a large open space ; where we encamped. In the evening, Lieutenant Barnett came to us, and asked us for some provisions, as he had tasted none all the day. We being scarce, my comrade asked me what he was to do. I told him to give him some, as he was a gentleman and a soldier.

In the night we were alarmed by an Indian whoop ; every man was instantly ordered to stand to his arms. In a short time, six Indians and an interprcter entered the camp, who informed the captain that they had been cut as spies, and in the evening, whilst passing through the woods, they saw a light, and made towards it. On arriving near, they discovered five Americans surrounding a fire ; they drew near, and when the Americans saw them, they ran to their arms. They (the Indians) ordered them to give up immediately. One of the Americans, who was an officer, asked them if they had any British soldiers in camp. They replied, "No." He then said, "We will not go with you, but you shall come with us." The Indians immediately surrounded them, and took them prisoners. While marching them, the officer was heard by the interpreter, to say to the men, "Kill four of the Indians, and make your escape ;" upon which the interpreter ordered the

Indians to kill four of the Americans, which they did ; the officer endeavouring to escape, the interpreter shot him, whilst running. To convince our captain that what they related was true, they pulled from their girdle the five scalps, the officer's ears, and a silver-mounted dagger. We were then ordered to lie upon our arms, and in the morning we returned to Fort Defiance ; crossed the river, and encamped.

The next morning we heard an Indian whoop. Soon after, the Indians brought in an American prisoner. The captain asked the prisoner, who he was, and how he was taken. He said he was a quartermaster-sergeant, of an American regiment, and was out hunting for honey. The captain then asked him, how many men they had in camp, and how far they were off. He replied, about 9000, and that they intended to encamp there to-night, but that it was doubtful, as they had to cut the road, through the wood, for the cannon. Captain Muir then said to Captain Elliott, (commanding the Indians) we had better retreat, as quickly as possible. Captain Elliott replied, he would rather an attempt might be made, to cut off their advance. Our captain answered, "If we are exposed to one volley, I shall lose all my men, therefore, I think it adviseable to retreat," to which, Captain Elliott agreed. We then

hich they did ;
nterpreter shot
r captain that
led from their
s, and a silver-
red to lie upon
urned to Fort
ped.

whoop. Soon
erican prisoner.
was, and how
master-sergeant,
ut hunting for
ow many men
were off. He
nded to encamp
, as they had to
or the cannon.
tt, (commanding
as quickly as
would rather an
r advance. Our
to one volley, I
k it adviseable to
greed. We then

lightened the boats, by throwing the shot overboard,
and retreated to Maldon.

After this, we were again sent to the Mawme Rapids,
with two gun-boats and 11 or 12 pieces of ordnance,
and landed about one mile and a half before we came
to Fort Maggs, on the opposite shore.* We then moved
to nearly opposite the American fort, and began to erect
batteries. Our preparations were soon discovered by
the enemy, and they endeavoured to annoy us, by
opening their batteries upon us, but we persevered,
until we had completed the works, with little or no loss,
and then we returned the fire. We had a proof that
our guns were doing execution, for one of our officers,
with his glass, saw a man employed upon a building in
the fort, he supposed he was covering their magazine
with turf; this officer pointed out the man to one of our
gunners, who took an elevation, and discharged the
gun: the officer saw the man fall from the building.

Sergeant Smith and six of the light company, (I being
one of the number) were ordered to dig a place, for to
lay a mortar, in front of the American fort. The
work being nearly completed, Sergeant Smith ordered
me to go to the other battery, and let the artillery officer
know, that the work was ready for the platform; and
as I came up from the work, I looked towards the fort

* Fort Maggs is a strong fortification, on the American side of the river.

and saw a smoke ascend, and then fell to the ground ; when a ball passed over me, and struck into the earth : I then went and gave the officer the orders, that Sergeant Smith sent me with.

A few days after this, the grenadiers and light infantry were ordered back to the camp, and from thence crossed the river with a six pounder and an howitzer, landed, and in the evening marched to within three or four hundred yards of the fort, and occupied a ravine, where the enemy's guns could not bear upon us, and by the morning we made platforms for the gun and howitzer, and commenced a fire upon the fort. Here we remained some days, and at night, sentries were posted in the woods, about 30 or 40 yards from the fort.

While lying in the ravine, one day, I went up to look round, when a ball came near my head, and struck a tree ; I then looked round and saw an artillery-man shaving his comrade, the ball rebounded from the tree and struck the man that was shaved, in his head. He died in the evening of the same day, and left a wife and three children to mourn his melancholy fate.

One night, as I was on sentry, I heard a person coming through the wood. He accosted me, and gave me to understand that the Americans were coming down, on the other side of the river.

When I went off sentry, I acquainted the captain with what the Indian had said, who treated it very lightly; but about ten o'clock, the next morning, we heard a great noise and firing, from the other side of the river; on looking towards our batteries, we were surprised to see our colours down: 1300 of the enemy's troops had come down and got possession of the batteries, with all the ordnance, &c. We then received orders to recross the river, and I and one of my comrades had orders to take a box of ammunition and throw it into a creek, to prevent its coming into the hands of the enemy. By the time we had done this, the enemy had marched out of the fort, when my comrade said to me, "We can stop here, we have no need to go back to the fight", but I replied, "What! see your comrades fighting, and not go back to help them; if you don't go back, I will shoot you." I hastened back, but cannot tell how he acted. When I joined them, they were rallying for the charge. We charged them close under the fort, but were obliged to retreat because of their great guns, and were ordered to make the best of our way to the boats, to cross the river. Several of the officers and men were taken prisoners. After crossing the river, we had orders to march towards the batteries as quickly as possible. When advanced

about half a mile, we met a party of our men, with a considerable number of the Americans, (prisoners), and were informed, that, on news being received at the camp, that the enemy had taken possession of the batteries, the whole force were ordered under arms and marched for the batteries. Sergeant-major Keynes with 12 men, advanced in front, and when they came in sight of the enemy, they commenced firing. The sergeant-major was soon wounded in one of his arms, and lost several of his men, but that did not stop them, they were bold and courageous. The main force was not far behind, and very soon the fight became general, and continued for about twenty minutes, when the Americans surrendered, but some of them escaped to the woods.

We passed our men and the prisoners, and came to the batteries. The light infantry, and a party of Indians, received orders to go through the woods, in search of those who had escaped. I witnessed several affecting scenes in this pursuit. I saw one of our men, and one of the enemy, lying dead near together. I saw another of the enemy, that the Indians had met with and scalped, lying in a miserable plight, and begging for water; and while covering over his head with boughs, to screen it from the heat of the sun, a party of the Indians came up, and found fault with us, for

hen, with a con-
ners), and were
ed at the camp,
the batteries,
s and marched
es with 12 men,
in sight of the
sergeant-major
nd lost several
they were bold
not far behind,
, and continued
ericans surren-
woods.

s, and came to
nd a party of
the woods, in
itnessed several
one of our men,
together. I saw
had met with
ht, and begging
his head with
he sun, a party
lt with us, for

shewing any lenity to the dying man : and one of them instantly dispatched him with his tomahawk. We took several prisoners in the woods, and marched them to the camp. In this affair, a considerable number, on both sides, were killed and wounded. The prisoners being secured, and the detached men being come in, the Indians who had lost many of their companions, began to manifest a disposition to be revenged on the prisoners, and actually fired amongst them, and killed one of our men, who opposed them in their cruel intentions. Our officers interfered, and prevailed upon Captain Elliott, and some of their chiefs, to put a stop to their cruel proceedings.

The prisoners were then put on board the boats, for safety, and put out into the stream. The flank companies were then ordered back to the batteries, where we encamped. The same evening, we heard that the American general had agreed to surrender Fort Maggs ; and the next morning we were ordered back to the camp ; and from thence we crossed the river, with a flag of truce, under the command of General Procter. General Harris came from the fort, with his attendants, and met our general, on the beach, who told him he was come to receive the fort, according to his proposal. The American general said he should not surrender ; General

Procter replied, "What ! not fulfil your own agreement, that would be a violation of the honours of war," or words to that effect. He said he should not give up, for he knew his (General Procter's) strength, was far less than his own ; and further, that he knew his strength, as well as he himself did. He was willing to exchange prisoners, and when that was effected, if they were not away in two hours, he would open his batteries upon them. It was thought that the American general gained his information, respecting our strength, from four men (volunteers) who deserted from us, the preceeding night. We exchanged prisoners, and recrossed the river. We then embarked the ordnance, &c., went on board the boats, with the remaining prisoners, and sailed for Maldon. The enemy opened their guns upon us, from the fort, but we were nearly clear of them, and sustained no loss. When we arrived at Maldon, we were employed, when off duty, under the direction of engineers, in strengthening and throwing up works. While here, one day, when on duty, a sentinel was wanted on board a vessel, and I was sent. (I relate this circumstance, to shew something of the cruelty of the native Indians, when they have it in their power). When I got on board the vessel, a person came from below, and was put in my charge ; as we

ur own agreement,
ours of war," or
ould not give up,
strength, was far
hat he knew his

He was willing
at was effected, if
e would open his
that the American
ting our strength,
erted from us, the
prisoners, and re-
the ordnance, &c.,
maining prisoners,
opened their guns
re nearly clear of
en we arrived at
ff duty, under the
ing and throwing
when on duty, a
el, and I was sent.
v something of the
hey have it in their
e vessel, a person
my charge ; as we

were walking on the deck, I entered into conversation with him ; and as near as I can recollect, he related the following sad tale to me. I thought it deserved credit, for his feelings were much excited, and the tears flowed freely and plentifully. He said he had a small fortified place, where he and others defended their property ; if I remember right, he said they were traders.—

"A party of Indians surrounded our place, and told us that the British troops were near, and would undoubtedly destroy us, and take away our property ; but if we would admit them, they would protect us, and our property. Thinking that this reinforcement would be the means of preserving myself, my family, and my property, I consented, and gave them possession ; when they began the work of destruction. They first killed my associates, and then cruelly murdered my children. Not satisfied with this, they took my wife, who was in a forward state of pregnancy, and murdered her before my face ; they then ripped her up, and exposed the unborn infant, after which they took me off, a prisoner."

This was a very affecting relation ; for hard and unfeeling as I then was, I could not help shedding tears, on hearing it, and seeing the distressed state of him that related it.

Some time after this, we were informed that the enemy were at the river Reasin. Orders were given to cross the river St. Lawrence. We landed at a place called Brown's Town, and then proceeded for the river Reasin, with about 500 of our troops, and a few Indians. We had to contend with about 1400 of the enemy, under the command of General Winchester. When within about two miles of the enemy, we encamped for part of the night; early in the morning, we proceeded to meet them, and under cover of a wood, we approached near to them, unperceived; we formed the line, and had a view of them, as they surrounded their fires. While we were forming, the Indians marched so as to get round their right flank. We had six field pieces, which led on in front of the line. We were then discovered, by one of their sentries, who challenged, and discharged his piece, which killed one of our grenadiers; we then gave three cheers, and the Indians followed, with a war whoop: the fight then commenced very warmly. It was on the 22nd day of January, 1813. Before day-light, we had charged them several times, thinking that we were close upon their line; but our men were so cut up, that after every attempt, we were obliged to retreat to the covert of a rising piece of ground, with considerable loss. The

formed that the
ers were given
nded at a place
ed for the river
l a few Indians.
of the enemy,
chester. When
we encamped
morning, we
ver of a wood,
ed; we formed
ey surrounded
, the Indians
ank. We had
nt of the line.
ir sentries, who
which killed one
cheers, and the
the fight then
he 22nd day of
e had charged
ere close upon
that after every
the covert of a
ble loss. The

men at the three guns, in our front of the line, were all killed or wounded, with the exception of one man. One of our lieutenants (Clemon) received three or four wounds by musket balls; and a field officer, I think, a lieutenant-colonel, fell, having received several shots, but was not killed, four of our men advanced to defend him, one of whom took him up, and carried him into the rear. As the day approached, we discovered that what had been supposed to have been the enemy's line, was a made fence, behind which they were sheltered, with holes in it, through which they fired at us. About this time, my comrade on my left hand was killed. It being now light, I saw a man come from the fence, when I said to my comrade, "There is a man, I'll have a shot at him." Just as I had said these words, and pulled my trigger, I received a ball under my left ear, and fell immediately; in falling I cut my comrade's leg, with my bayonet. He exclaimed, "Byfield is dead." To which I replied, "I believe I be," and I thought to myself, is this death, or how men do die? As soon as I had recovered, so as to raise my head from the ground, I crept away upon my hands and knees, and saw a sergeant in the rear, who said, "Byfield, shall I take you to the doctor?" I said, "Never mind me, go and help the men." I got to the place where the

doctor was, who, when it came to my turn to be dressed, put a plaster to my neck, and ordered me to go to a barn, which was appointed for the reception of the wounded. As I was going, the blood flowed so freely, as to force off the plaster. I now saw a man between the woods, and asked him what he did there. He told me he was wounded in his leg. I observed to him, that if I had not been wounded worse than he was, I should be back, helping the men. I then asked him to give me a pocket-handkerchief, to tie round my neck, to stop the blood. He replied, "I have not got one." I said, "If I do not get something, I shall bleed to death." He immediately tore off the tail of his shirt, and wound it round my neck. I then got to the barn, and laid down, with my fellow sufferers. I had not been there long before the doctor came, and said, "My dear fellows, you that can, had better get away, for our men are terribly cut up, and I fear we shall be all taken." He rode away, but soon returned, saying, "My dear fellows, we have taken all of them prisoners." At which news, I exclaimed, (being quite overjoyed), "I don't mind about my wound, since that is the case."

While in the barn, I was much affected, by seeing and hearing a lad, about 11 or 12 years of age, who was wounded in one of his knees. The little fellow's

my turn to be
d ordered me to
the reception of
blood flowed so
ow saw a man
at he did there.

I observed to
rse than he was,
then asked him
round my neck,
ve not got one."

shall bleed to
tail of his shirt,
got to the barn,
ers. I had not
and said, "My
et away, for our
all be all taken."
ng, "My dear
prisoners." At
overjoyed), "I
t is the case."
ected, by seeing
rs of age, who
e little fellow's

cries, from the pain of his wound ; his crying after his dear mother ; and saying he should die, were so affecting, that it was not soon forgotten by me. He was a midshipman, belonging to one of the gun-boats ; I think his name was Dickenson.

I understood, that while we were engaged with the enemy, the Indians pressed them on their right, and a part of the American force were sent to oppose them. The Indians overpowered them, and killed a considerable number. Some of the Indians produced eight or nine scalps, each. This, no doubt, was one of the principal causes of the enemy surrendering. There was a heavy loss of killed and wounded, on each side. When we arrived at Maldon, there was a general muster of our men's wives, anxious to learn whose husbands were amongst the killed and wounded. The hospital would not contain the wounded, in consequence of which, some of them were put into the barracks. I was among the latter. The next morning, I got my comrade to wash my neck, and shoulder, and I told him there must be something the matter with my shoulder, as I could scarcely lift my hand to my head. On examining my shoulder, he thought he could feel a ball, near the bladebone. I attended the doctor, and told him I had a job for him. On his examination, he found that the

ball which had entered my neck, was lodged in my shoulder; he went to work and extracted it, and in about three weeks, the wounds were nearly well; and I was able to attend to my duty.

The prisoners and wounded were brought to Maldon, and, after a short stay, were sent down the country. Our light company received orders to march to Sandwich, where some of the company that had been detached, joined us. We soon returned to Maldon again, and from thence, with a large party of Indians, went for Maggs Rapids, and landed about two miles from Fort Maggs. A plan was then formed, to draw General Harris and his force from the fort. A body of the Indians was placed in the woods, and directed to keep firing, as though two parties were engaged; in order to make the American general believe that we had fallen in with a reinforcement, which he was expecting; and endeavouring to prevent their joining him. We were in readiness to advance, and cut off his retreat to the fort, if he came out. He came out from the fort, but the weather was tremendous, with thunder, lightening, and hail. We supposed that they suspected, or discovered the cheat, and returned immediately to the fort; as this project failed. We returned down the river, to Lake Huron, under orders for Fort St. Dresky. We stopped

as lodged in my
tracted it, and in
early well; and I

sought to Maldon,
wn the country.
march to Sand-
ad been detached,
ldon again, and
ndians, went for
miles from Fort
o draw General
A body of the
directed to keep
ged; in order to
at we had fallen
expecting; and
him. We were
is retreat to the
om the fort, but
der, lightening,
ed, or discovered
the fort; as this
e river, to Lake
. We stopped

at different places, and went on shore, to see if we could obtain any information respecting the enemy. At one place, we discovered houses and plantations, but no inhabitants, but in one of the dwellings, we found a dead body, partly consumed: we supposed this place had been depopulated by the Indians. At another place, I, and some of my comrades went some way into the woods, where I had a narrow escape from a rattle-snake. I did not see it, at first. It was of great length, and size. When I saw it, I drew back. It appeared to be about to spring upon me; when one of my comrades shot it. We took it with us, and the Indians begged it of us, saying, that it was between nine and ten years old; and that some part of it would cure the bite of another.

We proceeded, and went up the river St. Dresky; and disembarked on the beach. The following morning we marched for the fort. The Indians met with a man, and the officers tried him very much, to give some information respecting the enemy. He acted as though he was deaf and dumb, so that no information could be gained from him, neither by words nor signs. The gun-boats went up the river, near to the fort, and we formed on a piece of ground no great distance from it. The enemy commenced a fire upon the boats, and

us. The fire was returned from the boats. General Procter sent Major Chambers with a flag of truce, and demanded the surrender of the fort ; or he would blow them up. He was led into the fort blindfolded, and received an answer from the American general, for the commandant, that he would not surrender, and that he was ready to be blown to hell, at any moment.

We then took up a position near the fort, where we were sheltered from their fire ; and in the night, made platforms for our guns.

The following morning, it was determined to storm. Our force was divided, and each party received orders, which part of the fort to attack. It was thought at the distance we were at, that it would be possible to scale the fence. We advanced in file, and formed near the ditch, and found it much deeper than we had expected ; and the fence much higher. The light company, and part of a battalion company, were all that reached the works ; the others were beaten back. When the enemy found that the others had retreated, their main force was directed against us ; and a dreadful scene ensued. Our men, generally, were determined. I saw one of them turn round, his comrade observed it, and said, if he did not face the fire, he would run his bayonet through him. We were exposed to the enemy's fire.

ts. General
f truce, and
would blow
dfolded, and
neral, for the
and that he
ent.

fort, where
n the night,

d to storm.
ived orders,
ought at the
le to scale
d near the
d expected;
mpany, and
eached the
n the enemy
main force
ne ensued.
saw one of
nd said, if
his bayonet
emy's fire.

My front rank man, the sergeant on my right, Major Short, and Lieutenant Gordon, were killed. My left hand man received six balls, but recovered from his wounds. We that remained alive, laid under the bank of the outer intrenchment. The officers and men in the inner ditch, were exposed to a swivel gun, and most of them were killed or wounded. I saw one of them come from thence into the ditch, where I was, wounded in his mouth, and the piece of lead lodged in it. We remained in the ditch until night, when we received orders to retreat. Before this, I went down the ditch, amongst my dead and wounded comrades, to try to get some ammunition, as mine was expended. I said to one of my comrades, "Bill, how bee'st?" He said to me, "There is one of the Americans keeps firing upon us, out of one of those loop-holes." I asked him to tell me out of which of the holes he was firing, and I would have a shot at him. He told me, and I fired. I had scarcely fired, when I saw my comrade fall back, wounded. I stepped to him, and said, "Bill, what's the matter?" He replied, "They have shot me again." By this time, the enemy had nearly ceased firing, and those of the men who could, were getting out of the ditch, as quickly as possible; I do not believe there was either a commissioned, or non-commissioned officer

left in it: and our poor wounded men groaning and crying, saying, "Now we have done the best we could, you are all going to leave us." This the American officer heard from the fort, and said, "I know your men are going away, but never mind, my brave fellows, when they are gone, I will come out and take you in, and use you well." I said to him, "Why don't you come out now, and we will fight you five to one." He answered, "No, I shall not, but when you are gone, I shall come out and clear the ditch." I then said to one of my comrades, "Now I shall start," and ascended the works. Just as I had got to the top, the flash of the guns caught my eye; I immediately fell on my face, when a shower of shot fell near me. I arose, and hastened to one of our batteries, when jumping into it, General Procter said to me, "Where are the rest of the men?" I said to him, "I don't think there are any more to come, they are all killed or wounded." He added, weeping, "Good God! What shall I do about the men!" This was in September, 1813. We were then ordered to march to the boats. We went on board, and proceeded down the river, for Maldon. Before we came to the lake, we stopped and went ashore. Here, one of my comrades, who was badly wounded, wanted to comply with nature's necessity, and asked me to

croaning and
st we could,
e American
ow your men
ave fellows,
take you in,
y don't you
o one." He
are gone, I
hen said to
nd ascended
the flash of
fell on my
I arose, and
ping into it,
e rest of the
ere are any
nded." He
l I do about
. We were
nt on board,
lon. Before
shore. Here,
ded, wanted
asked me to

carry him into the wood, for that purpose. My feelings were so excited, on account of the distressed state he was in, that I could not find courage enough, at the moment, to comply with his request; but one of my comrades took him up to carry him to the wood, and he died in his arms. We dug a hole in the beach, and buried him. After which we arrived at Maldon.

The flank companies were then ordered to Sandwich. This is opposite Detroit. When we took that place, in 1812, a circumstance occurred, which I here refer to.

An inhabitant of Detroit, a farmer, who, with his family, were in comfortable circumstances, having a loom, for weaving, in their possession, sent to enquire if there were any weavers amongst us. I and one of my comrades, being weavers, went to their house, and lent them some assistance in putting the loom to work. They behaved very kindly to us. I visited them often afterwards; and they continued their kindness to me during our stay there. The mistress suggested to me, that if I deserted, and went into the states, I should do well. I told her, I could not desert my colours; and, that I hoped to see old England again.

Soon after we came to Sandwich, I was one of a party, that was sent across the river to Detroit, for fuel. While they were getting it on board the boat, I

asked the sergeant to give me a few minutes leave, to go and see my old acquaintance. I went to their former residence, but they were not there; the scene was changed. I found them in a cottage, reduced to a state of extreme poverty. The Indians had deprived them of all their property. The master was from home. The mistress said she was glad to see me, but had nothing to give me, but a piece of bread. I declined receiving it, and felt extremely sorry, to see them in such a state of poverty. Having five shillings in my pocket, I gave it to her; and have never repented it since. I then took an affectionate leave of her, and returned to the party. On recrossing the river, with the fuel, we were in danger of being sunk, by getting enclosed in a shoal of ice, but we were preserved, we got clear, and landed, about half a mile down the river. The flank companies were again ordered to Maldon. A party from each company were now sent on board, to do duty as marines; and the fleet sailed for Lake Huron, to attack the American fleet. The action commenced, and we could hear the report of the guns, and were expecting every hour, to hear that our people were victorious; but contrary to our expectation, news was brought, that they were overpowered by numbers, and every vessel taken.

es leave, to
nt to their
; the scene
reduced to
had deprived

was from
see me, but
nd. I decli-
to see them
shillings in
ver repented
of her, and
river, with
by getting
eserved, we
wn the river.

Maldon. A
on board, to
Lake Huron,
commenced,
s, and were
people were
a, news was
umbers, and

Orders were then given to prepare to leave Maldon, and to take the ordnance, and all that we could, with us, but first to destroy the works, &c. In a few days' march, we came to 24-mile Bush, (or Moravian Town), and were informed, that the American general was pursuing us, with three times our number, or more; and instead of using every effort to keep ahead of the enemy, until we were reinforced, we were detained in taking forward the general's baggage, &c. It was said, that the Indians were inclined to make a stand, and endeavour to defeat the enemy, in order to keep possession of the upper country. The Americans gained upon us, and the Indians brought in some of their advance, (prisoners). A party was sent back to destroy a bridge, in order to check the enemy; while in the act, they were surrounded, and taken prisoners. Thus situated, we prepared to meet them, in the best manner that we could. The light company and the Indians were placed on the right, to face the Kentucky riflemen. We were thus formed, in a wood, when the enemy came within 20 or 30 yards of us, and sounded the bugle, to advance and attack.

The attack commenced on the right, with the Indians, and very soon became general, through the line. After exchanging a few shots, our men gave way. I was in

the act of retreating, when one of our sergeants exclaimed, "For God's sake, men, stand and fight." I stood by him, and fired one shot, but the line was broken, and the men were retreating. I then made my escape farther into the wood, where I met with some of the Indians, who said that they had beaten back the enemy, on the right, but that their prophet was killed, and they then retreated. Moravian Town was not far from us, and the Indians wanted to know whether it was in the possession of the enemy, or not. They made for this place, placing me in front, and their interpreter asked me, if in case I should hear the voice of any one there, whether I should know it to be an Englishman's or an American's. I said I should. When near the outside of the wood, I heard a voice, saying, "Come on my boys," in a dialect, which I knew to be American. I communicated the same to the interpreter, and finding that we were discovered by the enemy, the Indians turned round, and made their way through the woods, as fast as possible ; I followed after, as quickly as I could. After awhile, they slackened their pace, and I overtook them ; we went forward until night came on, when the Indians halted and formed round me, they seemed to be holding a consultation ; I supposed it was to decide how I should be disposed of. In this

solitary place, and surrounded by savages, whose cruelties I was somewhat acquainted with, I had but little hope, at the moment, of ever getting out of the woods. My feelings on this occasion, may be more readily conceived than expressed. After a short time, they went on, in Indian file, and I followed, until we discovered a light ; I was then ordered to go on in front, to ascertain what light it was. I found an old Indian and a little boy, the old man being too far advanced in age, to go to war. They then came on, had some conversation, and stopped for the night. I wanted to gain their friendship, if I could, and having some tobacco in my haversack, I distributed it amongst them, and then laid down. After passing the night, there, we proceeded through the woods, and after some time, discovered some cattle feeding. As we advanced, we came to an Indian camp, and after some conversation, between my companions and them, one of the females gave me some victuals, and spoke to me in broken English. I understood that she invited me to go with them, that is, with their tribe. I accepted the invitation. The interpreter hearing it, called me aside, and asked me what I had been saying. I told him. He then told me, that if I went with them, I should go into the back settlements, and perhaps never come out of the woods again. This

caused me to change my mind. I told the interpreter, that I wanted to find out some road or river, thinking that I should then find my way to some house or place. He then told me, that I had better go with him, as he should be in Quebec, some time in the following month.

The interpreter and three of the Indians then left the others, and I went on with them. We had not travelled far, when I observed one of the Indians give the interpreter a pair of moccasons, for the feet. I then thought that the interpreter had sold me, for a pair of shoes, and I shewed some reluctance to go forward. He asked me why I did not go on. I said that I should not, without him. He replied, "You are afraid." (I really was afraid, but did not want him to know it.) I answered, "I am not." We proceeded through the woods until the sun had nearly set. I thought we were drawing near some road, I mended my pace, and was getting in front of them; when one of the Indians tapped me on the head, and said that if I did not keep back, he would take that off. We went a little farther, and picked up a pumpion; in a short time after, I discovered one of my comrades. This was the best sight I had seen for some time, and my fears and suspicions, in a great measure, vanished; he had been wandering about, going he knew not where, and, no doubt, was

interpreter, thinking that place. He him, as he ving month. has then left We had not Indians give feet. I then or a pair of go forward. said that I . are afraid." to know it.) through the thought we y pace, and the Indians did not keep little farther, after, I dis- the best sight l suspicsons, a wandering doubt, was as glad to see me, as I was to see him. Soon after this, we came in sight of a public road, and by the road side we found some flour, some potatoes, and a kettle. We returned with the Indians, into the wood, and cooked it; we made a division of it, and found it very refreshing, being much needed. We stopped in the wood, that night; there was a heavy fall of rain, which made it very uncomfortable. The next morning, we crossed the road, and went into the woods, on the other side; we forded several rivers, and in the evening, came to an Indian village. We were invited to one of the huts, and the head of the family was very kind, he killed a pig, and dressed it; boiled some Indian corn, and made soup; and entertained the whole of us, in a very friendly manner. We slept there that night, and, in the morning, I and my comrade took our leave of the old man, and our travelling companions, who directed us towards Oxford. The same day, we fell in with a party of our men, who had charge of the general's baggage. We stopped with them that night, in the morning, I found that they were making too free, with what they had in charge. I was afraid of the consequences, and said to my comrade, "Let us push forward," but he was inclined to stay, and I went on without him. I was ill prepared for marching, my shoes being entirely

worn out ; but before night I fell in with a larger party of our men, who had escaped, under the command of Captain Bullock, of the grenadier company. He enquired how I had escaped. I related to him the particulars of what I had passed through. This party proceeded to Oxford, and from thence to the Cross Roads ; where we remained for several months.

From thence we marched to Burlington Heights barracks ; and after a few days, to Fort George ; the Americans having left it. Our flank companies, with the 100th regiment, were ordered to attack Fort Niagara. The 100th regiment was at Queen's Town ; we marched to that place, and joined them, and from thence crossed the river St. Lawrence, and landed about four or five miles above Niagara. Generals Drummond and Ryal were with us. Arrangements being made, we moved off for the fort ; the 100th regiment was in front. On the way, we surprised a guard, at Young's Town ; we took them prisoners, and obtained the countersign ; but a man made a signal, by discharging a rocket, we supposed to alarm the fort : it had no effect, and the man was killed. We advanced quietly, and a party, under the command of a sergeant, went in front. When he came near the outer sentry, at the entrance to the fort, he was challenged ; he advanced and gave the counter-

arger party
ommand of
pany. He
im the par-
This party
the Cross
hs.

on Heights
eorge ; the
anies, with
rt Niagara.
we marched
nce crossed
our or five
and Ryal
we moved
front. On
Town ; we
ersign ; but
et, we sup-
nd the man
arty, under
When he
to the fort,
ne counter-

sign, seized the sentinel, and threatened him with im-
mediate death, if he made any noise. He then pro-
ceeded to the gate, and was challenged by the sentry
inside, he gave the countersign, and gained admittance,
but the sentry cried out "The British—turn out the
guard." Our force was fully prepared, and in a very
short time, we had possession of the fort, with very
little loss—December 19th, 1813. The 100th regiment
was left in the fort, and we were ordered to Lewis Town,
which place was occupied by a small party of the enemy ;
but, before we got there, they had quitted the station,
leaving one piece of ordnance. Here we were reinforced
by a party of the 1st royals, from Queen's Town ; we were
then ordered for Slustua. We were a little alarmed, in
the evening, before we started ; I was on sentry, and
heard something like the movement of troops : it proved
to be a party of Indians, bringing two men, belonging
to the royals, who, they thought were about to desert.
We proceeded, the same night, for Slustua, (I was on
the advance, with a sergeant's party) and when within
about one mile and a half of it, we fell in with an
American guard. The sentinel challenged, and
attempted to fire, but his piece missed fire. We forced
our way into the guard room, where they were all in
confusion ; I seized one of them in a sailor's dress, and

threatened to kill him, if he made any resistance. We made eight of them prisoners, the others escaped. Our main force went on, and I, with some others, followed with the prisoners. We had not marched far, before we came to two roads; we took the wrong one. Soon after, we heard some person coming behind. Not having a non-commissioned officer with us, I said to one of my comrades, "Go back, there is somebody coming," but he refused. I then said, "Take care of the prisoners, and I will go back." I had not gone far, when I saw a man; I challenged, and he answered, "A friend." I asked him what he belonged to. He said, "The Americans." I ordered him to stand fast, or I would blow his brains out. He replied, "I am a prisoner." I took hold of him. He then said, "You are one of the men who came into the house just now; one of your men has got my boots; I am the officer of the guard." I told him that I had a pair of shoes in my knapsack, and that he might have them, if he would. He said, that if he put them on, his feet would be frost-bitten—December 22nd, 1813. I offered him some rum. He said, he did not expect to be so treated, if he was taken prisoner, and wept, begging that I would not let him fall into the hands of the Indians. I told him that if he behaved himself, no one should hurt him.

stance. We
escaped. Our
rs, followed
far, before
one. Soon
hind. Not
, I said to
s somebody
ake care of
d not gone
e answered,
ed to. He
stand fast,
d, "I am a
said, "You
e just now;
the officer
air of shoes
them, if he
s feet would
offered him
o treated, if
hat I would
ns. I told
d hurt him.

We now halted, thinking to remain until day-light, in order to ascertain the right road; we again heard some one coming; I went back some distance, and challenged. I was answered, "A friend." I asked him, what he belonged to. He said, "The British." I asked him what regiment he belonged to. He replied, "The militia." Not being satisfied with his answers, I drew near to him, and took his arms and ammunition from him. A short time after, we saw another man, with polished arms, by which I knew he must be one of our men. I said to him, "You villain, what business have you got here." He asked me, who I was, and said, he was as good a soldier as I was, and challenged me to fight. One of our men, (a jocular fellow), said to him, "You do not know who you are talking to, he is an officer, and will have you shot to-morrow." I had a beaver hat on, and a silk handkerchief round my neck. (I had lost my cap, in the bustle at the guard-room, and found the hat; and was allowed to wear a handkerchief, on account of the wound in my neck.) From this, the fellow thought that there was some truth in what was said; and begged that I would not report him, but before day-light, he thought proper to decamp. He belonged to the royals.

When the morning came, we proceeded, and soon

came into the right road. We found that our men had got possession of Slustua, which was a mill, and a place for public stores. The guard made some resistance, and the officer commanding it, was killed. I saw him lying dead, and asked the officer, (my prisoner) if he knew him. He said that he was a dear friend of his, wept over him, and said that he had been on parole three times. I then gave up the prisoners, and was put on guard, to prevent the men from making free with the liquors, &c., in the stores. Orders were then given to destroy the stores, and to burn the buildings; some of the provisions were thrown into the river. When this work of destruction was completed, we returned to Lewis Town. Two circumstances happened, here, of a very serious nature. One of our men, went into the woods, and was murdered by an Indian. We manifested much displeasure respecting it. The tribe, to make an atonement for this act, caused the murderer to be killed, and exposed in the public road, for some days. We were ordered under arms, one night, when one of our men, by his carelessness, caused his piece to explode, and the contents passed through his right hand man, and killed him. From Lewis Town, we crossed the river, for Queen's Town—December 22nd, 1813—We marched up the lines, to cross over again,

ur men had
and a place
resistance,
I saw him
(oner) if he
end of his,
on parole
s, and was
making free
s were then
buildings;
the river.
ed, we re-
s happened,
men, went
ndian. We
The tribe,
ne murderer
l, for some
ight, when
his piece to
h his right
Town, we
mber 22nd,
over again,
in order to attack Black Rock ; and were reinforced on the way, by men from the royals, and 8th regiment. Our force was then divided. The royals went above Fort Erie, to cross the river above Black Rock ; the remainder was to cross below Fort Erie, so as to land below Black Rock. Fort Erie, is nearly opposite Black Rock, on the opposite side of the river. We effected our landing, according to orders. The first that landed, surprised a guard, commanded by a Major Cotton, and took them prisoners. The line was then formed, and had orders to remain still, until morning, if nothing happened ; and then to advance, on the firing of a gun. We had not been there long, when a person came mounted, within 20 yards of our line, and exclaimed, " Damn you, Major Cotton, where are you, and the British landing." General Ryal, being not far from him, said, " I pray, sir, who are you ? " The other replied, by asking the same question. The former answered, " I am a British general," and challenged him. The other said, " I am an American general." General Ryal, then said, " If you are a man, and a soldier, stand before me." He instantly turned his horse, and rode off in great haste. The royals, in crossing the river, were carried by the violence of the stream, so far down the river, as to be exposed to the

enemy's batteries, and suffered much, but they effected a landing. Some time after this, the Americans came out of the town, and formed. We laid close and quiet, according to order, and heard the American general, say, "Make ready, present, blaze." Their shot took no effect upon us. We arose, returned the fire, and laid down again. As they did not fire again, we concluded that they had retreated.

We remained in our position until the gun fired, when we faced to the right; and having gained some ground, to the right, turned to the left, by sections; and advanced, until we came near to the entrance of the town, where we formed the line, on the first section. They fired upon us, as we were forming, and we returned it, as fast as the sections came into line. The enemy soon began to give way. There was a heavy fire kept up, from a large building. A party of our men advanced, and stopped the firing, by taking possession of the building. We now discovered, that the royals were exposed to their batteries, being carried farther down the river than was intended. We then directed our fire upon the men that were working the battery guns. About this time, the enemy sent a party into the wood, to flank us on the left; but they were received by a party of our Indians, stationed there for

they effected
cans came
and quiet,
n general,
shot took
e fire, and
, we con-

gun fired,
ined some
sections ;
entrance of
rst section.
, and we
line. The
s a heavy
rty of our
aking pos-
, that the
ng carried

We then
orking the
ent a party
they were
l there for

that purpose, and were beaten back, with loss. They made an attempt to turn one of their battery guns upon us, but could not succeed. As many of the royals, as survived, about this time, effected a landing. We now pressed the enemy very closely, and they began to retreat, for Buffaloe. We got possession of Black Rock, and the Batteries, and pursued them to Buffaloe. I saw one of the royals, with blood flowing very freely from his face; I said to him, " You are wounded, you had better go back." He replied, " No, lad, I'll pay some of them first." The enemy made but a short stay at Buffaloe; they gave us a shot from a mounted gun, and retreated. We took possession of the place, being apprehensive that the enemy would get reinforcements, and return upon us. Orders were given to destroy both places, by burning; no dwelling was to be spared, except one, where the dead body of a child laid, who had been shot, in the street; this was in compassion towards the sorrowful mother. We stopped until the evening, refreshing ourselves, and burying the dead; and then recrossed the river, and marched down the lines, to Fort George. At this place, my brother met with an accident, which cost him his life.

When our company was at this place, before the taking of Detroit, we were 110 strong, but now reduced

to 15 men only, fit for duty ; some of them had been wounded, myself for one. The other part of the company, both officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners.

We marched from Fort George, to York, where the second battalion joined us—July 25th, 1814.

Our company, now filled up, was ordered, under the command of Captain Glue, to Point Frederick, Kingston; supposing that the Americans would cross from Sacket's Harbour, and attack it. We remained here, until the weather broke up, and then returned to York, again.

About this time, the man who messed the officers, complained, that owing to the high price of provisions, he could not continue to do it, without permission to keep a canteen, and to be allowed a man to assist him. Permission being granted, he requested to have me ; as I belonged to the light company, he was at first denied, but it was afterwards granted, with an order, that when the company was wanted for any particular duty, I was to attend. While at York, I went into the hospital, to see the wounded. One of the 8th regiment, who had lost a leg, said, "That's the man that saved my life," and related how, saying, that when he was knocked down, I had pulled him behind a tree, to shelter him from the enemy's fire. I recollect the circumstance ;

he was very kind to me, during our stay together.

Our regiment now received orders for Fort Niagara, to relieve the 100th regiment. While here, we were expecting the enemy, and were often under arms, all night, and the guns kept loaded, to receive them, if they attempted to storm. The light company was repeatedly sent across the river, to Fort George, as there was a force of the enemy in that quarter. The enemy made their appearance, but the forts were opened upon them, and they went back. The flank companies were then ordered to Lewis Town, information having been received, that the enemy were in that neighbourhood. A field piece accompanied us, and the light company was extended into the wood, on the side of the road, to prevent us from being surprised, from thence. We found much obstruction, the enemy having blocked the way, with a large quantity of brush wood.

When we came near Lewis Town, we got a sight of a party of the enemy, encamped. When they saw us, they went off, in quick time, and left the camp, and their provisions partly dressed. We followed them, some distance, but they did not stop to face us, and we returned. At this time, the British, on the other side of the river, were engaged with the enemy, at Lundie's Lane. We could hear the report of their great guns.

Our captain informed us, that he had received orders to cross the river, to assist them; and the grenadiers, with the field piece, were to return to Niagara. We crossed, and landed at Queen's Town. It was at this place, that the much lamented veteran, General Brock, received his death wound, by a shot from an American rifleman. We moved from this place, in quick time, for about seven miles, and waited for orders, near Lundie's Lane. A noggin of rum was given to each man. We then moved on for the field of action. We had a guide with us, and when we came near the field, our captain was called upon, by name, in a loud voice, to form on the left of the speaker. It being night, we could not discover what regiment it was. The guide positively asserted, that it was one of the enemy. Our bugle then sounded, for the company to drop. A volley was then fired upon us, which killed two corporals, and wounded a sergeant, and several of the men. The company then arose, fired, and charged. The enemy quitted their position; we followed, and took three field pieces. In the morning, we collected the wounded, and received orders to burn the dead. One of the Indians persisted in throwing one of the wounded Americans on the fire, while living, although prevented several times; one of our men shot him, and he was

ceived orders
grenadiers,
agara, We
was at this
neral Brock,
an American
quick time,
orders, near
en to each
action. We
ear the field,
a loud voice,
ng night, we

The guide
enemy. Our
o drop. A
two corpo-
of the men.
arged. The
d, and took
collected the
dead. One
the wounded
h prevented
and he was

burned himself. At this fight, General Ryal was wounded, and himself, and his orderly, (one of the 19th dragoons), were taken prisoners. We were now ordered to join the regiment, at Niagara ; but before we marched, General Drummond, personally, thanked us, for our conduct in the fight. The whole of the army, were thanked, in public orders ; namely, the royals, 8th, 49th, 89th, and 103 regiments. The 89th suffered severely, in this engagement.

We joined our regiment, at Niagara, and, in a short time, part of the regiment, including the light company, was ordered to cross the river, to Fort George ; and from thence, towards Fort Erie. In going up the lines, we fell in with our main force. We were expecting to storm Fort Erie, when orders were given, for the 41st, and part of the 104th, with a rocket party, under the command of Captain Perry, to cross the river, below Black Rock. While on the water, we heard firing, in the direction of Black Rock. We landed, and advanced towards it. When we were here last, there was a bridge between us and the town, over a small creek, but the enemy had destroyed it, and on the inner bank, they had thrown up breast works. They commenced firing upon us, we advanced, thinking to charge ; when we discovered, that the bridge was gone. We instantly

retreated, and remained until day-light; when a party was ordered to erect a temporary bridge, across the creek, and our company, and the rocket party, were to cover them. We stood some time, and some of our shot took effect. We saw one of the enemy fall, who was daring enough to get upon their works. About this time, I received a musket ball, through my left arm, below the elbow. I went into the rear. One of my comrades, seeing that I was badly wounded, cut my belts from me, and let them drop. I walked to the doctor, and desired him to take my arm off. He said it might be cured without it; and ordered me down to a boat, saying, that the wounded men were to cross the river, and they (the doctors) would soon follow. The party failed in erecting the bridge; and retreated with loss. When on the other side of the river, the wounded were put into a house, and the doctors soon came. They examined my arm, and made preparations for amputation; but after a further consultation, they told me, that although I was rendered unfit for further service, yet, if the wound could be healed, it would be better for my hand to remain on, if it was not much use to me, and that had better be first tried. I was then sent to my regiment, at Niagara.

After a few days, our doctor informed me that my

arm must be taken off, as mortification had taken place. I consented, and asked one of my comrades, who had lately gone through a like operation, "Bill, how is it to have the arm taken off." He replied, "Thee wo't know, when it's done." They prepared to blind me, and had men to hold me; but I told them there was no need of that. The operation was tedious and painful, but I was enabled to bear it, pretty well. I had it dressed, and went to bed. They brought me some mulled wine, and I drank it. I was then informed that the orderly had thrown my hand to the dung-heap. I arose, went to him, and felt a disposition to strike him. My hand was taken up, and a few boards nailed together, for a coffin, my hand was put into it, and buried on the ramparts. The stump of my arm soon healed, and three days after, I was able to play a game of fives, for a quart of rum; but before I left the fort, a circumstance happened, which I here relate. There was a sentry posted near the wood, to prevent any of the men entering it, and we had to go near the sentry, for water. One of the artillery-men went on pretence of fetching some water, and when the sentry's back was turned towards him, he started into the wood, for the purpose of deserting, and the sentry (one of the 41st) shot him. The ball entered his body, and the

wound proved mortal ; he was brought into the barracks. His captain came into the barracks, to see him. The dying man charged him with being the cause of what had happened. The captain left the room, and he died shortly after. My comrades, and the messman whom I had been serving, out of kindness and respect to me, made a subscription, of several pounds, and gave it to me. As soon as the wounded men were somewhat recovered, they were ordered, from the different regiments, to go on board the boats, used in the river, to go to Kingston, and in going down the river, we went on shore, by night. On board the boat I was in, was a young man, a sailor, who had lost one of his arms, near the shoulder. I felt a kind regard towards him, and we became comrades. He was going down the country, to be cook, on board a King's ship, the St. Lawrence, 110 guns ; he shared with me, the gratuity my friends had bestowed upon me. From Kingston, we proceeded to Montreal ; and from thence, to Quebec. One evening, after going ashore, I took a walk, alone, a little way into the country, and came near a large neat looking house, and seeing a lad, I asked him who lived there, he replied, "A three-handed man." I said, "That's the very man that I want to see, as I have but one hand ; if he should be disposed

to give me one of his, we shall have two apiece." The lad said, that by a "three-handed man," they meant that he was wealthy. After going a little farther, I went into a farm house; the inhabitants of which behaved very kindly to me, and the mistress made up a bed for me, for the night. When I came to Quebec, I met with some of my old comrades, who had been wounded, and taken prisoners. I was extremely glad to see them. They related the scenes, and hardships, they had passed through; and one of them, said he was left amongst the dead, his wounds were considered incurable; but he begged them to attend to him, for he thought he should recover. After remaining in that state, four days, before anything was done for him, they paid some attention to him. He was then, in a great measure recovered, but not well. General Procter, being in Quebec, I waited on him, and asked him for a certificate, for the capture of Detroit, which he freely gave me; and told me, that he would give me such a recommendation, that I need not fear, but that a sufficient provision would be made for me. He asked me the particulars of the battle, at Moravian Town. I told him all the particulars I knew. He further said, that he was going to Montreal, and ordered me to call on him, before he went, or before we embarked for Eng-

land. Some time after, a woman told me that the general wanted me. I attended to the order, immediately, but the woman had delayed delivering the message. The general was gone, and I did not see him, neither have I had the satisfaction of seeing either of my officers since, although I have made many enquiries.

We now had orders to go on board the Phœnix transport, and sailed for England. We had a tolerably good passage, but was a little alarmed, one night, by a sudden squall of wind. The sails backed, and we were near foundering, but in a short time, the vessel righted, and all was well. We landed in the Isle of Wight, and marched into Newport barracks. Dec. 1814.

After examination, we were sent to Chatham, by water. Having been passed by the inspecting officer, there, I was sent to Chelsea. I appeared before the board, and was ordered nine pence per day, pension.

My feelings were much excited, that day, on learning that our bugle-horn man, who was a young soldier, who had been but in one action, and had lost a fore arm, about the same length as mine, was rewarded with one shilling per day. I must say, that I felt very much dissatisfied with nine pence, and I made several applications, at different times, to The Honourable

Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital, to augment my pension, but without success. Hearing of a field officer, residing in the neighbourhood of the town where I live, and that he was a soldier's friend, I made bold to wait on him, and requested that he would be pleased to hear my case. He kindly condescended to comply with my request, and after hearing my statement, he was of opinion that I was not remunerated for my services, and loss. He, very kindly, said he would represent my case, and it was not merely a *promise*, he persevered, until he had caused an addition to be made to my pension, of three pence per day. For which, I very kindly thank him, and shall be ever bound, gratefully, to acknowledge his kindness to me.

Being deprived of my trade, in consequence of losing my arm in the service, and having received several very severe wounds, it was with great difficulty I could support my wife and children, in a respectable manner ; my pension at that time, being only nine pence per day.

One night, I dreamt that I was working at my trade, and on awaking, I related my dream to my wife, and told her I could weave ; she said, "Go to sleep, there was never such a thing known, as a person having but one arm, to weave," and on going to sleep a second time, I had the form of an instrument revealed

to me, which would enable me to work at my trade. I awoke my wife, and told her the circumstance. I went to a blacksmith, of the name of Court, and having drawn a design for him, on a board, he made an instrument for me, similar to the pattern, with the exception of some little alteration, which I thought was for the best, but which, on trial, I was obliged to alter to the shape I saw in my dream ; and I am happy to say, that I have been enabled to labour for my family, and keep them comfortably, for nearly twenty years, in the employ of Edward Cooper, esq., clothier, Staverton works, near Bradford, Wilts.

The above is a true and correct account, as given by Shadrach Byfield, before me

EDWARD COOPER,
January 1st, 1840.

I cannot but remark, that it is evident in the foregoing relation, that a kind Providence has preserved my life through the many dangers to which I have been exposed, and brought me back to my native home. And for what purpose ? In order to manifest a further display of His goodness and mercy towards me, in convincing me that I was a sinner, and in high rebellion against Him, who is my best friend and benefactor. A conviction

of this, has caused me to lay down my arms of rebellion ; to sue for mercy, and to submit to his righteous sceptre. For the last twenty years, I have been fighting under the banner of a Captain, who has conquered every enemy, and defeated every foe, to my immortal interest. Although I have to contend with a threefold enemy, namely, the world, the flesh, and the devil, and am the subject of many imperfections, and rank myself among the vilest of the vile ; yet I hope that my soul is founded on the eternal Rock of Ages, against which the powers of hell shall never prevail. And when I shall have to encounter the last enemy, Death ; although he will gain a victory over my mortal part, yet I hope that my immortal soul will be enabled to shout "Victory," through the blood of the Lamb : and be admitted into the society of the blessed, where I shall be beyond the gun shot of every enemy, and landed safely on the shores of eternal rest ; *where peace reigns*, and where war shall be known no more. Where a blessed eternity will be spent, in adoration, and praise to Him, who has redeemed and saved me out of the hands of every enemy.

T H E E N D.

PRINTED BY J. BUBB, BRADFORD.

ORD.